

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING THE LIFE OF LENA HORNE

SPEECH OF

### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1362, which honors the tremendous accomplishments of the late Lena Mary Calhoun Horne, who passed away on May 9, 2010 at the age of 92. Born in 1917 in Brooklyn, NY, Lena Horne was one of the most prolific and accomplished performers of her time. At the young age of 16, Ms. Horne began her career when she joined the chorus line of the famous Cotton Club in Harlem. Over the years, her phenomenal talent garnered increasing critical acclaim and widespread recognition, as she became one of the most prominent figures in American entertainment.

I thank Chairman TOWNS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman CONYERS for honoring the legacy of this superb American actress and songstress.

Despite the segregation-era law that prohibited African Americans from playing leading roles in white films or plays, Ms. Horne's talent attracted widespread national attention. She was beloved for her part in the 1943 musical *Cabin in the Sky*. Additionally, for her role in the *Calypso* musical *Jamaica*, Ms. Horne was nominated for a Tony Award for "Best Actress in a Musical."

Ms. Horne's musical career was equally impressive. In 1957, her live album entitled *Lena Horne at the Waldorf-Astoria* became the best selling album by a female recording artist in the history of the RCA-Victor label. In the 1950s, Ms. Horne appeared in a number of popular television shows including, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *The Dean Martin Show*, *The Judy Garland Show*, and *The Andy Williams Show*.

Lena Horne's pursuits were not limited to the stage. She was an outspoken activist committed to fighting racism and Jim Crow. She attended the 1963 March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech and performed on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Council of Negro Women. During World War II, she refused to perform before segregated audiences and protested shows in which German Prisoners of War were seated in front of African American soldiers.

I salute the artistic talent and inspirational life led by Lena Horne. I commend her contribution to the richness of American performance art and vocal stances against oppression and discrimination. Lena Horne captivated and inspired a nation and she will be greatly missed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1362.

## UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ROCKET AND MISSILE DEFENSE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I have always supported Israel's security and condemned unequivocally violence inflicted upon Israeli and Palestinian civilians. Recognizing the defensive nature of the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system, designed to guard against short-range rocket, missile, and mortar attacks which threaten the lives of innocent Israeli citizens, I voted yes on H.R. 5327.

However, I must express my serious concerns regarding continued and increasing trends of militarization in the region. The soaring costs associated with an unending cycle of military buildup, both human and financial, cannot be ignored in the context of the suffering that continued tensions have inflicted upon Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike. All parties involved must redouble their efforts and resources dedicated to realizing a just and lasting peace between the Israelis, Palestinians and the Arab world, including by refraining from gestures that would jeopardize the progress or viability of meaningful negotiations.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to speak to the issue of the urgent need to realign our national security spending priorities—a realignment we must make within the context of both overall U.S. national security interests and in relation to our vital domestic requirements. We in the Congress must focus on the difficult choices associated with reducing our Nation's unsustainable military spending and on investments that will more effectively provide for our enduring security, and that of our allies. We must invest in our people, their education and our economy—always the backbone of our national security. As we scale back the military spending element of our national security investment, we must fill some of that vacuum with smart and highly leveraged investments in regional stability programs, including in the Middle East. Whatever the short-term and tactical defense merit of any one weapon system, such as is claimed for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system, it pales into insignificance when compared to successfully building regional economic development and confidence building.

## A MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

### HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor our fallen veterans this Memorial Day on May 31, 2010. On Memorial Day, we pay homage to the thousands and thousands of individual acts of bravery and sacrifice that stretch back to the battlefields of our revolution and to those taking place today in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan.

Today we honor and remember four brave soldiers from Moorestown, NJ who lost their lives in combat. Mr. Walter Seel Jr., Mr. Howard Mayer, Mr. George Yohnson, and Mr. Roger Ross were all killed in action during the Vietnam War. They are our Nation's heroes who fought so bravely and made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the American Dream.

I will never stop fighting to ensure we do right by the men and women who serve our Nation and defend our freedom. As we observe Memorial Day this year, I ask all of my colleagues and fellow Americans to pause and reflect on the centuries of sacrifice by the many men and women that this day represents. And let us make sure that all who served with honor are honored in return.

## IN HONOR OF CHASE THOMPSON PHILLIPS

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chase Thompson Phillips, a young man that I have known for sixteen years.

In June, he will graduate from Mexia High School as a Distinguished Honor Graduate. Chase is a member of the National Honor Society and the baseball team. This year, he and his doubles partner, Blake Dornak, competed in the State Tennis Tournament in Austin, Texas. They are the first duo from Mexia High School to qualify for the state competition and they made it to the quarterfinal round of the 3A State Tennis Tournament. This feat is particularly impressive since Chase and Blake did not have the guidance of tennis coaches or benefit from any practice matches. It speaks loudly of Chase's work ethic and dedication.

This year, he received the Dallas Safari Club's Colin Caruthers Younger Hunger Award for his passion for hunting and commitment to community service. Started in 1991, this prestigious award honors young member hunters for their significant accomplishments, academic excellence, and civic involvement. He was previously honored with the International Youth Hunting and Conservation Award from

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Dallas Safari Club and has also done anti-poaching work for black rhinoceros in Zimbabwe. Chase was also selected to represent Limestone County at the American Legion Boys State Conference in Austin, Texas.

Over the years, I have watched Chase grow up into a mature, responsible young man. He is selflessly committed to serving his local community, giving generously of his time and effort to make our world a better place. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring this fine young man. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS  
JONES COLLEGE FIRE PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2136, the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act, which establishes the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones Fire Suppression Demonstration Incentive Program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems or other fire suppression or prevention technologies.

I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for their leadership in bringing this important resolution to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congressman FUDGE, who introduced this legislation in honor of our distinguished colleague Stephanie Tubbs Jones. The late Congresswoman Tubbs Jones introduced the College Fire Prevention Act in each of the last four sessions of Congress and passed a resolution regarding Campus Fire Safety Month. I am pleased that the legislation she worked so hard on is finally coming before the House.

As Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, fire prevention for students is an important issue to me. There are between 1,500 and 1,800 fires each year in college residence halls, dormitories, and sorority or fraternity houses. But when fire suppression technology is present in student housing, the chance of surviving a fire increases by 97 percent and the likelihood of property damage is 35 percent less.

H.R. 2136 establishes an incentive program within the Department of Education (DOE) that will promote the installation of fire sprinkler systems or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing or dormitories. The program will provide competitive matching grants that will fund up to half of the installation costs and priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate the greatest financial need. In addition, the legislation would reserve at least 10 percent of the funds in grant program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribally controlled colleges and universities, and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. At least 10 percent will be reserved for fraternities and sororities.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to keep our students safe. I am

pleased that Congress is taking action to promote increased safety measures in college dormitories as well as providing the funds in support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2136.

HONORING THE BIRMINGHAM  
CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute as a recipient of the prestigious Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award for 2009–2011.

Fewer than ten museums in the United States are selected for the Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award and I am delighted and proud that the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, located in the Seventh Congressional District, is among the chosen. This honor is both an outstanding achievement and a source of great pride for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Birmingham community.

Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad, which is administered by the American Association of Museums (AAM) and receives financial support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, connects U.S. communities with communities abroad through innovative, museum-based projects that reflect each museum's unique collections, capabilities, and expertise. Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad increases the cultural competency of two communities and also helps museums connect with local underserved populations.

The Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award will enable the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute to partner with the Mandela House Museum in Soweto, South Africa in the development of a joint project of cultural significance. The obvious parallels between the U.S. and South Africa related to their historic struggles against malevolent systems of racial segregation and oppression make this a natural partnership.

Through this collaboration, not only will the communities of Birmingham and Soweto be united, but cultural diplomacy as a whole between the U.S. and South Africa will be strengthened. It is an honor to recognize the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for this outstanding accomplishment. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for this significant achievement.

HONORING MR. GARY SARGENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Gary Sargent. Mr. Sargent served his constituency

faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Supervisor for the Town of Charlotte.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Sargent served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Sargent is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to him today.

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR FLAG ACT  
OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2546, the Blue Star/Gold Star Flag Act of 2009, which will prohibit a condominium association, cooperative association, or real estate management association from preventing a resident from displaying a military service flag on his or her property or living space. This important measure will ensure that the families of our servicemen and servicewomen have the right to honor their brave loved ones for their service to this country.

I would like to thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman BOCCIERI. I am deeply grateful to Congressman BOCCIERI for his service to this nation and I thank him for helping to ensure that no American is deprived of the opportunity to honor a family member who is courageously defending our country.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply saddened by accounts of individuals being required by condominium and apartment owners to remove the service flags flown in their windows or on their porches in honor of family members serving overseas. Every American deserves the right to honor a loved one serving in the military. Our Nation should never discourage expressions of support for its troops. Fortunately, this legislation will ensure that never again will a mother be told that she cannot honor her son or daughter, whose service fills her with pride and for whose wellbeing and safety she prays daily.

Madam Speaker, California's 37th district is home to over 24,000 veterans and hundreds of brave men and women currently enlisted in the Armed Forces, many of whom are fighting in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am forever grateful for their service and consistently work to ensure that they receive recognition for their courage and the support they need upon returning home. I stand in solidarity with their families in honoring their bravery and hoping that those who are currently deployed soon return home to be reunited with their loved ones.

With Memorial Day just over a week away it is important that we take time to honor and express our gratitude for the fallen heroes who

made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country. We must also commit ourselves to standing by the families of our brave men and women in uniform. My district has a long history of supporting military families. Long Beach is home to the Gold Star Manor, which provides affordable and quality housing to mothers who have lost sons or daughters in the service of their country. We must continue supporting the family members of our men and women in uniform and always express our gratitude for our troops' willingness to risk their lives on behalf of our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2546.

#### HONORING THOSE LIVING WITH AND AFFECTED BY HUNTING- TON'S DISEASE

##### HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the thousands of Americans living with and affected by Huntington's disease. As you know, May is Huntington's disease awareness month. HD affects over 250,000 Americans, 117,000 in my great state of California.

According to the National Institutes of Health, NIH, "Huntington's disease results from genetically programmed degeneration of brain cells, called neurons, in certain areas of the brain. This degeneration causes uncontrolled movements, loss of intellectual faculties, and emotional disturbance. HD is a familial disease, passed from parent to child through a mutation in the normal gene. Each child of an HD parent has a 50–50 chance of inheriting the HD gene. If a child does not inherit the HD gene, he or she will not develop the disease and cannot pass it to subsequent generations. A person who inherits the HD gene will sooner or later develop the disease. As a Cochair of the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, I urge my colleagues to support efforts by the NIH to eradicate this horrible condition.

Not only are people with HD living with constant discomfort, they are also shortchanged when it comes to receiving social security disability benefits. Individuals living with HD are continually denied disability social security benefits because of outdated medical guidelines that require a 2-year waiting period before the accrual of benefits can begin. These fine Americans have paid into the system and they should have access to these benefits. For most people a 2-year wait is nothing, for patients suffering with HD it is a death sentence.

In an effort to end this discrimination, I have joined with my colleague BOB FILNER (D-CA) in sponsoring H.R. 678 The Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2009. This legislation will revise the outdated social security benefit formula and allow people living with HD to begin receiving their benefits immediately.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the yeoman's work of Mr. Allan Rappaport and Ms. Misty Oto. These wonderful, dedicated Americans are fighting hard every day to make sure one day HD is nothing more than a footnote in a medical school text book.

Finally, I would like to thank the Huntington's Disease Society of America, HDSA.

HDSA is a national, voluntary health organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with HD and their families. This wonderful group promotes and supports research and medical efforts to eradicate Huntington's disease as well as assists families dealing with HD all the while educating the public and health professionals about this condition.

Colleagues of the House of Representatives, I urge you to support H.R. 678 and work with me to end the discrimination of HD patients.

#### HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON "REPUBLIC DAY"

##### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 92nd anniversary of Republic Day on May 28.

Located in a geopolitically dynamic region between Europe and Asia and sandwiched between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan is a secular county with a predominantly Muslim population that has also been home for more than a millennia for vibrant Christian and Jewish communities.

Azerbaijan first gained independence in 1918, which led to an explosion of the arts, education, and economic growth. That independence was suspended in 1920 by Soviet invasion, not to be restored until 1991 with the fall of the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by both the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to the United States and our partners in Europe. Notably, in 2009 Azerbaijan provided nearly one-quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel and is considered a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S. supported Nabucco pipeline.

On the security front, immediately after 9/11 Azerbaijan was among the first to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Azerbaijan participated in operations in Kosovo and Iraq and is actively engaged in Afghanistan, having recently doubled its military presence there. Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Additionally, Azerbaijan provides specialized training for Afghan police, border guard officers and de-miners, education and training of Afghan civilian and military medical doctors, and medical treatment of Afghan citizens at Azeri hospitals. Azerbaijan has provided medical equipment and supplies to Afghanistan as well as assisting in the construction of schools and hospitals there.

Azerbaijan remains a reliable partner of NATO and the EU in the South Caucasus through its consistent and effective contribution to common goals and objectives. Azerbaijan is also an active partner of the United States in efforts regarding the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction through its participation in programs such as Caspian Guard and Cooperative Threat Reduction.

Against this backdrop, Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act of 1992, which prohibits direct U.S. government assistance to Azerbaijan, remains a serious obstacle to expanding the strategic partnership between our two countries and is contrary to U.S. national interest in the region. Furthermore, the absence of a U.S. Ambassador to Baku since July 2009 creates unnecessary uncertainties. Finally, as one of the cochairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group charged with resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the United States must engage more actively in mediation efforts, as is the case with Moscow and Paris.

Regarding the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, I applaud the European Parliament for adopting a resolution on May 20, 2010 urging the EU to pursue a strategy in the South Caucasus to promote stability, prosperity, and conflict resolution and demanding "the withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan, accompanied by deployment of international forces to be organized with respect of the UN Charter in order to provide the necessary security guarantees in a period of transition, which will ensure the security of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh and allow the displaced persons to return to their homes and further conflicts caused by homelessness to be prevented."

Again, as the Cochairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 92th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus.

#### CONGRATULATING BRIGITTE LAVEY FOR WINNING FAIRFAX COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

##### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate my constituent, Brigitte Lavey, a teacher at Langley High School, as the Fairfax County "Teacher of the Year." She has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and character that has benefited many students.

Additionally Brigitte, who teaches advanced placement world history, world studies, and geography, also was recently honored by The Washington Post with the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for educational excellence. This award is presented annually to a teacher from each school division in the Washington metropolitan area.

Brigitte was hired by Fairfax County Public Schools in 1968 to teach English and history

at Frost Middle School. She moved to Langley High School in 1975, where she has taught English, history, and art history. She earned bachelor's degrees in English and history from St. Louis University.

Brigitte runs a student-centered classroom. On any given day, students might run a Socratic seminar, give a presentation, run a student-led discussion, or participate in a writing workshop. She implores students to see the significances of history on their own, modern lives; to compare their contemporary world with the times they study, and to use the knowledge they gain to carry our culture and country forward. As the sponsor of the History Honor Society, she continues the learning process by having members adopt a human rights issue and learn how history affects life today.

She is usually first in line to volunteer for training to learn new technology and software. She also organizes an annual gift certificate for Langley custodians and food service employees and dedicates time outside classes to help students who may be struggling and she can frequently be found spending one-on-one time with students in the afternoons and on Saturdays.

Her sense of humor, a commitment to scholarship, learning, empathy, flexibility, and an ability to bring her infectious passion into the classroom are what makes Brigitte Lavey such a dedicated teacher. She has also received Langley's DeBusk Award and Human Relations Award and Fairfax County's History Teacher of the Year award. She was named a Fulbright Scholar for China and has twice been a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Brigitte Lavey for her dedication to her students and wish her continued success as she mentors and teaches our next generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH  
COTCHETT

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor of a remarkable American, Joseph Cotchett, of San Mateo, CA who is on everyone's list of the top 100 most influential lawyers in the nation, a distinction that I believe understates his achievements in the area of law and social justice.

Twenty years ago Joe was the lead trial lawyer for 23,000 plaintiffs defrauded in the Charles Keating/Lincoln Savings and Loan scandal, initially winning at that time one of the nation's largest jury verdicts, \$3.3 billion. Fast forward to 2009 and he is again representing consumers, this time investors victimized by Bernie Madoff's financial wrongdoings. During his 40-year legal career, he has tried more than 100 cases and settled hundreds more, but this is not the thrust of what I would like to say about him today. Throughout his career he has done extensive pro bono work for the disadvantaged, establishing himself as a true champion of social

justice. He lends his skills and talent when it is needed, not when it is convenient.

His giving is not restricted to legal work. At the local level, he has been on the board of directors for the San Mateo County Heart Association; the San Mateo Boys & Girls Clubs; the Peninsula Association of Retarded Children and Adults; the Bay Meadows Foundation and the Disability Rights Advocates. Joe and his family have been active in supporting organizations helping children, women, ethnic minorities and animals. The Cotchett Family Foundation was specifically created to aid individuals and groups in need of assistance. In 2004, Joe endowed a \$7 million fund to support science and mathematics teacher education at California State Polytechnic University, a program aimed at serving inner city and rural minority children.

He is an accomplished author, lecturer and keynote speaker. His titles include *The Ethics Gap* and *California Courtroom Evidence Foundations*. Although he has focused on legal matters, in 2002 he co-authored and published, *The Coast Time Forgot*, a historic guide to the San Mateo County coast.

Joe Cotchett truly loves the community in which he lives and works and it is only fitting, Madam Speaker, that on May 21, 2010, Notre Dame De Namur University presented him with the Community Spirit Award in honor of his work in promoting social justice through community engagement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,987,796,841,336.51.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,349,371,095,042.70 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL  
SERVICE, POSTAL INSPECTORS  
EQUITY ACT

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, the United States Postal Service, Postal Inspectors Equity Act, is intended to allow postal inspectors to receive full law enforcement availability pay (LEAP) comparable to criminal investigators of other executive branch agencies. Postal inspectors protect the U.S. Postal Service, its employees and its customers from criminal attack, and protect the nation's mail system from criminal misuse.

Under current law, compensation and benefits for postal inspectors are required to "be maintained on a standard of comparability to the compensation and benefits paid for comparable levels of work in the executive branch of the Government outside of the Postal Service." See Title 39, U.S.C. 1003(c). Currently, the Postal Service is paying postal inspectors LEAP, but such payments are not statutorily required.

As written, the bill will require the Postal Service to pay postal inspectors LEAP pursuant to statute. The United States Postal Service, Postal Inspectors Equity Act will amend Title 5, U.S.C. 5545a to define postal inspectors as law enforcement officers eligible to receive LEAP. The bill will preserve and protect postal inspectors' law enforcement availability pay and ensure that the Postal Inspection Service will be able to recruit and retain highly qualified postal inspectors.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN  
L. FUGH

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of MG John L. Fugh, who suddenly passed away on May 11th of this year. General Fugh was the first Chinese American general officer in the United States Army and became Judge Advocate General of the Army in the period following the Persian Gulf War. His distinguished service in the U.S. Army and career with the Judge Advocate General's Corps. spanned 33 years. Today, I honor his contributions to our country.

John L. Fugh was born in Beijing and after the Communist Revolution in 1949, moved with his family to Washington, DC. As the son of a public servant, he graduated from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and attained a law degree from George Washington before entering the JAG Corps. He has served America overseas during the Cold War, doing a tour of duty through wartime Vietnam, and as a staff judge advocate for the 3rd Armored Division in Frankfurt, Germany.

Returning home, he rose up the JAG leadership and was promoted to brigadier general, undertaking non-criminal legal matters, and created the Army's first environmental law practice. Achieving the position of Judge Advocate General, the Army's top legal official, he provided strong leadership in navigating the Army's complex legal matters in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, such as the reconstruction of Kuwait.

After retirement from the army, General Fugh continued to serve his country with respect to Sino-American relations by acting as liaison to China for several manufacturing and aerospace firms like Boeing. He also served as chairman of the Committee of 100, a non-partisan membership organization of over 150 prominent Chinese Americans.

A recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and two awards of the Legion of Merit, it is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize the life achievements and contributions to our country of the distinguished General John L. Fugh.

CONGRATULATING THE SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMICS TEAM ON WINNING THE NATIONAL FED CHALLENGE

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I wish to highlight the accomplishments of the Saint Joseph High School Economics Team. On May 18, 2010, this team outscored other excellent teams from across the country in the National Fed Challenge and went on to represent Indiana as one of only four teams nationwide that qualified for the final competition at the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, DC.

The Economics Team then faced tough competition from Boston, New York, and Richmond, Virginia. Following their 15 minute presentation about the economy they were asked questions by a panel of judges consisting of Federal Reserve staff members, professional economists, and educators. After the judges weighed in, the St. Joseph High School economics team of South Bend, Indiana, captured the national championship. These St. Joseph students demonstrated their unmatched knowledge of federal monetary policy and the economy, and for the first time in their school's history, after three previous trips to the national tournament, they triumphed. The team consisted of five students: Elizabeth Everett, Theodora Hannan, Donny MacDonell, Angela Watkins, and Joe Watkins. These outstanding students were coached by their teachers, Julie Chismar and Phil DePauw.

I offer my congratulations to the St. Joseph High School Economics Team and all those affiliated with their success in the National Fed Challenge. These students serve as a model of commitment and dedication to educational excellence, and I am certain that their winning tradition will continue.

HONORING MRS. IVALITA JACKSON

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC, to offer our deepest condolences as we pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Mrs. Ivalita Jackson, beloved mother of our friend and CBC colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE and her brother, Michael. With Mrs. Jackson's passing on May 18, 2010, at the age of 84, we are reminded of her life's journey, the joyful legacy she inspired, and her bold commitment to selflessly care for others.

Ivalita Jackson, affectionately known as "Ivy," was born on January 15, 1926, in St. Petersburg, Florida, to Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd and Vannie Bennett. Mr. Bennett worked as a Pullman porter and Mrs. Bennett was both a homemaker and businesswoman. When Ivalita was 16, she and her sister Valerie moved to Queens, New York, to seek greater opportunities and to help their family back in Florida.

The two set a course marked by self-reliance, strong work ethic and personal respon-

sibility that continues to inspire their loved ones to this day. It was in New York that Ivalita began a life of service by seeking training in vocational nursing. And, she soon met the love of her life, New York native and comic book artist, Ezra Clyde Jackson, to whom she was married for 47 years.

Known for her expertise in the care of infants and premature babies, Ivalita Jackson was one of the first African American nurses to work at the Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital (now the New York Hospital Queens) and was a pioneer for other African American women in her field. "Jackie," as her colleagues called her, was loved and respected by patients and coworkers alike.

Mrs. Jackson cared for others' children during the graveyard shift so that in the morning she could walk her own small children to school. Her role as a mother was one of the guiding principles in her life and she made every effort to be involved in her children's school activities.

She also took great joy in her active leadership roles at Linden Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she was a dedicated charter member and part of the gospel choir. In addition, Mrs. Jackson made sure that her children were involved in church activities and instilled with a sense of spiritual and public service.

A dedicated wife, sister, mother and grandmother, Mrs. Jackson was known by many as a true "renaissance woman." She was a talented flower arranger, a wise mentor, a compassionate spirit and a woman who commanded an enormous amount of respect. With wit and wisdom, she reminded others to show love in spite of hardship and to love themselves so that they might love others that much more.

Though preceded in death by her husband, Mrs. Jackson is survived by son, Mr. Michael Jackson, daughter, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, grandchildren, Jason Lee and Erika Lee, and a sister, Mrs. Vivian Smith.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus join family and friends in mourning the loss and celebrating the life of Mrs. Ivalita "Ivy" Jackson. On behalf of those whose lives she touched in magnificent ways, we honor and salute her. Ivalita was truly a great woman and she will be deeply missed. The contributions she made to others throughout her life are countless and precious. Our thoughts and prayers are with Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, the entire family and Mrs. Jackson's extended group of loved ones and friends. May her soul rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING CHIHUAHUA  
DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, which I am excited to announce is in the 23rd district of Texas, on its recent nomination to participate in the Museum Assessment Program, MAP. The program has served over 5,800 museums since 1981 and is administered through the American Association of Museums in a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Mu-

seum and Library Services, IMIS. The program will help the museum, beyond its current success, identify through peer review, how to improve programming and operations to address current and future challenges.

The Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute is located within the scenic Davis Mountain range near Fort Davis. Through research and education, including its proximity to Sul Ross State University, the non-profit institute promotes public appreciation and awareness for the natural diversity of the Chihuahuan Desert. Highlights include a 1400-sq.-ft. cactus and succulent greenhouse, a desert botanical garden, over 3 miles of hiking trails, and interpretive exhibits.

The institute offers opportunities for visitors of all ages to learn through the Life-Long Learning Program. This program features workshops, fieldtrips, and lectures on a variety of topics related to the natural history of the desert region. Other programs for school and youth groups help parents and teachers reinforce scientific concepts by offering exciting, interactive activities. Teachers can continue their professional education with interesting classes that emphasize outdoor learning and hands-on activities to use as demonstrations for their students.

Exhibits include "Our Dynamic Landscape: Geology, Culture, History," the "Chihuahuan Desert Mining Heritage Exhibit," a "Geological Timeline," and constant changing interactive "Atrium Exhibits."

Again I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the recognition of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute by the Museum Assessment Program for its outstanding efforts on educating the community about regional and ecological awareness. This continuous hard work has a positive impact on visitors and students alike who in turn will appreciate preservation of the earth's natural history, regional habitats, and more importantly, the importance of preservation for future generations.

FAITH AND FOREIGN POLICY

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a piece by Tom Farr, former American diplomat and senior fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs which recently ran in The Washington Post.

Farr highlights several of the more alarming findings outlined in the recently released annual report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Whether it is the persecution endured by Tibetan Buddhist monks or the violence perpetrated against the ancient Christian community in Iraq—religious freedom is under assault around the world.

Farr points out that the commission makes a host of policy recommendations which should prove invaluable to the U.S. State Department as it seeks to advocate for those whose voices have been silenced around the world.

However, Farr also rightly notes that "one could easily conclude that Obama Administration officials have no intention of giving priority

to religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy, if for no other reason than the President's extreme lassitude in nominating an official to head the IRF (International Religious Freedom) operation—the ambassador at large for international religious freedom required by the IRF act.”

I commend this piece to my colleagues. It is a sobering but realistic assessment of the diminished state of religious freedom advocacy in U.S. foreign policy. It ought to be cause of great concern for all Americans who cherish this first freedom.

OBAMA AT THE CROSSROADS ON RELIGIOUS  
LIBERTY

FAITH AND FOREIGN POLICY

(By Thomas Farr)

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (IRF) has come down hard on the Obama administration for its failure to promote international religious liberty. “U.S. foreign policy on religious freedom,” said Commission chairman Leonard Leo, “is missing the mark.”

The Commission, established by the 1998 IRF Act, is a bipartisan group of nine men and women drawn from across the American political and religious landscape, and it includes Obama supporters. To its credit, the group's annual report, released last week, is raising the right issues at the right time.

The report reminds us of a primary reason the United States seeks to advance religious freedom. It recounts in disturbing detail the cruelties practiced worldwide on human beings because of their religious beliefs and practices, or those of their tormentors. A small sampling: Rape victims still languish in Pakistani prisons because religious laws require women to produce four male witnesses to the act of rape. Unable to do so, many rape victims have been accused of “adultery,” found guilty, and imprisoned.

In March 2009 Chinese security forces literally beat to death a Tibetan Buddhist monk for passing out leaflets supporting the Dalai Lama. In China, the torture and “disappearance” of Buddhist monks and nuns, and of disfavored Muslims, Christians, and adherents of Falun Gong, occur with inhuman regularity.

In Saudi Arabia a senior cleric recently issued a fatwa calling for the death of anyone arguing that men and women could work together professionally. Such edicts emerge from a Saudi interpretation of Islam called Wahhabism, a malevolent political theology that continues to be exported from the desert kingdom worldwide—including to the United States.

In Iran, Shi'a Muslims critical of the regime's brand of Shi'ism were executed for “waging war against God.” Iranian Baha'is live in constant fear of imprisonment, torture and death.

All this makes for a dismaying reading, but the section on Iraq is particularly wrenching. In a country whose opportunity for ordered liberty has been purchased with American blood, Christians are being targeted and murdered. Thousands among this ancient but rapidly shrinking Iraqi minority have been forced to flee their homes and villages.

The slow death of Christianity in Iraq is a tragedy about which most Americans know very little. Had this story gotten the attention it deserved from the mainstream press, perhaps public opinion would have brought more pressure on the Bush administration to do something about it. The Commission, long a leader in this area, has provided powerful reasons for the Obama administration to act.

These and other tragic stories in the report provide a human face to the alarming trends

published by the Pew Forum in its December 2009 analysis, *Global Restrictions on Religion*. It found that 70 percent of the world's population live in regimes where citizens are vulnerable to religious persecution. As a humanitarian matter alone, surely this is unacceptable to the American people and their elected representatives.

Of course, no one supports persecution. The question is what can, and what ought, the United States do about it? Most Americans want their government to try and relieve the suffering of innocent human beings. But are there other reasons for action, reasons that might lead to U.S. IRF strategies that both reduce human suffering and further American interests? More on this below.

The Commission provides a host of practical, country-specific recommendations, for example, linking the substantial U.S. economic assistance to Egypt to improvements in that country's respect for religious freedom, or taking steps to ensure that the Chinese hear a consistent message on this issue from all U.S. officials (which is not now, nor ever has been, the case).

The report urges more pressure on the Saudi government to do what it has already pledged to do—reform the religiously-biased text books that teach Saudi children the wrong lessons, and make their “religion and morals police” more accountable. This is the same Wahhabi-inspired “police” agency that a few years ago prevented Saudi schoolgirls from fleeing a burning school building because they were not sufficiently covered. Fourteen girls perished in the flames.

Importantly, the report adds to the Commission's “watch list” two key Muslim democracies—Indonesia and Turkey. The commissioners judge, quite accurately, that those nations, while making strides in other areas critical to democracy, are lagging in religious freedom. This matter is important to the United States, not only because we want to help the victims, but also because the success of democracy in these countries is vital to our own security.

This brings us to the “other” reasons for advancing religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy. The Commission's findings tend to confirm what scholarship in international relations and sociology are strongly suggesting: democracy in highly religious nations cannot consolidate and yield its benefits—including economic opportunity, security, low levels of religious extremism, and peace with other democracies—without religious freedom. That is a lesson our foreign policy elites must learn, not only that we may help influence the democratic consolidation of allies Turkey and Indonesia, but also to ensure that our investments of blood and treasure in Iraq and Afghanistan succeed.

Commission chairman Leonard Leo highlighted the connection between religious freedom and national security in his remarks: “If the United States cares about human rights, if we value international stability, if we are concerned about countering extremism, freedom of religion . . . must be a critical component of our nation's diplomacy, national security and economic development objectives.”

The Obama administration should pay close attention to these words as it decides how to position its own religious freedom policy. Whether it will do so or not is still unclear. The report acknowledges that some good things are beginning to happen inside the State Department. But it also points to signs that IRF policy is being sidelined and may assume an even lesser role than it has in previous administrations.

Decisions over the next several weeks will likely tell us which path this President will take. Will he and Secretary Hillary Clinton

decide to retool and upgrade an IRF policy that was neglected by prior administrations of both parties? With proper leadership and training, U.S. religious freedom strategies will not only help alleviate human suffering far more effectively than they have to date, but they can also help achieve the national security goals emphasized by Chairman Leo.

On the plus side, there are a few reasons for hope. Within Foggy Bottom, a handful of officials are working hard to convince skeptical senior Department leaders of what ought to be obvious: the global resurgence of religion warrants systemic training for foreign service officers in religions and religious freedom. Our embassies abroad need expertise in this area, just as they possess expertise in politics, economics, or military affairs. This case has recently been made by, among others, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in a series of recommendations to the administration.

Unfortunately, as the Commission's report makes clear, many within the administration are resisting the obvious. One could easily conclude that Obama officials have no intention of given priority to religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy, if for no other reason than the President's extreme lassitude in nominating an official to head the IRF operation—the ambassador at large for international religious freedom required by the IRF Act. Sixteen months into the Obama presidency, with a bevy of envoys on issues from outreach to Muslim communities to the closure of Guantanamo long in place, the administration has not seen fit to move on the IRF position.

What the report does not mention is that the White House is said to be on the verge of announcing the President's nominee for ambassador at large. That person is reported to be a pastor rather than a diplomat, and someone with no experience in either foreign policy or religious freedom. Would the President nominate someone to head his programs on Muslim outreach, women's rights, disabilities, energy policy, climate change, or any of the other issues that are represented by senior envoys under his administration, if he or she were not a seasoned expert in the field? Why would he do so in the field of religious freedom?

If this were not enough, the Commission also notes reports that when the new IRF ambassador shows up for work, she will have even less authority and less support than is the norm at Foggy Bottom, and less than is required by the IRF Act itself. Other ambassadors at large, such as the official in charge of Global Women's Issues, work directly under Secretary Clinton. The IRF ambassador, on the other hand, will reportedly have four other officials between her and the Secretary. And the office that has for 12 years served the IRF ambassador (as required by the IRF Act) will now report to someone else.

Is the Democratic-controlled Congress paying attention? Does it care that a law it passed unanimously under one Democratic President is apparently being set aside by another?

One final point. The Commission report worries, correctly in my view, that both the President and the Secretary of State have taken to speaking publicly of “freedom of worship” rather than “religious freedom.” Why should that matter? Because “worship” is essentially a private activity, far less threatening to authoritarian governments or powerful majority religious communities than is religious freedom. The latter encompasses both private worship and public practice. It means protection for all religious communities on an equal basis, including the right to engage in the political life of a nation.

If the Obama administration wanted to downgrade U.S. international religious freedom policy, it might prepare the way by rhetorical shift such as this.

Is that what the administration is doing? It is too soon to tell, but there are reasons to be concerned. In a follow-up post I will explore why the President and Secretary of State might in fact be acting to move IRF to the obscure margins of U.S. foreign policy, and, if they are, why their actions would reduce our nation's capacity to undermine religious persecution, and harm the interests of the American people.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF ERNIE HARWELL

#### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, in Ernie Harwell's famous definition of baseball, he wrote that it was "just a game, as simple as a ball and bat; yet as complex as the American spirit it symbolizes." There was nothing complex, however, about what one of baseball's most iconic broadcasters meant to us all. Ernie lent his voice to one of America's deepest loves for more than 50 years, most of them calling games for his beloved Detroit Tigers. He passed away a few short weeks ago at the age of 92.

Ernie brought Tiger Stadium into Michigan living rooms from Hamtramck to Bloomfield, and made the old ballpark at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull feel like a neighborhood sandlot. He'd call out the hometowns of fans who caught foul balls as if he knew all 35,000 of them by name. The beauty of his commentary was in its understated grace—simple, earnest, and full of insight. Ernie was the rare broadcaster who made you feel like you were in the stadium. He'd tell you the score at least once a minute, but never fell victim to the need to hear himself speak. A silence filled with the hum of the crowd and the call of a vendor was almost as important to his broadcast style as the vignettes from every era of the game that peppered his play-by-play.

For Ernie's faithful listeners spring was a time of hope and rebirth, as he welcomed four decades of spring training seasons with a familiar Psalm: "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." It is the kind of hope we can all relate to, especially fans of a certain team in my district who believe that every year might just be "next year."

When Ernie retired from broadcasting in a moving on-field ceremony in 2002, he told us "rather than say good-bye, please allow me to say thank you." Today, it's our turn. Thank you, Ernie, for all the memories. You will be missed.

#### HONORING SUSAN LAFFERTY

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Susan

Lafferty upon being named as a 2010 Common Threads honoree. Mrs. Lafferty will be honored by California State University, Fresno at the 2010 Common Threads Award luncheon to be held on Friday, April 16, 2010.

Mrs. Sue Lafferty was born and raised in Los Angeles, California; away from farmland and agriculture. Mrs. Lafferty married Dave in 1976, and they moved to the Hanford-Lemoore area to begin their farming adventure.

Today, Mrs. Lafferty spends many volunteer hours working with the youth and agricultural education programs. She became involved with the Kings County 4-H Program while her daughter, Katie, was involved with the program. Although Katie is an adult, Mrs. Lafferty continues to spend countless hours with the group. Within the Kings County 4-H she has served as project leader, community leader, council secretary, council director and department chair for the Dairy Show 4-H Fair. Mrs. Lafferty is also the co-founder of Kings Harvest 4-H.

In 2009, Mrs. Lafferty encouraged eight 4-H members to develop a farm gleaning program to help them earn their Emerald Star and to supply fresh fruits and vegetables to the local food banks. Through her leadership and direction, the members were able to donate almost fifteen hundred pounds of tomatoes, nine hundred pounds of cantaloupes, seven hundred and fifty pounds of onions and two thousand pounds of sweet corn to Kings Community Action food pantry.

Beyond 4-H, Mrs. Lafferty volunteers for the Kings Fair Boosters, where she has served as President, Vice-President and secretary while also working on special events and fundraisers for the fair. Over the years, she has served in various positions for the Kings Fair Junior Fair Board, Kings Lamb Feed Committee, Hanford Future Farmers of America Parents' Club, Beef Educational Enhancement Fund (BEEF), Tulare County Fair and Great Western Livestock Show as well as the Dance Guild. Mrs. Lafferty is a lifetime member of Hanford Future Farmers of America.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Susan Lafferty upon her achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Lafferty many years of continued success.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARGO, FLORIDA, POLICE CHIEF LESTER ARADI

#### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the people of Largo, Florida, I have the privilege to represent will turn out Friday to honor their police chief, Lester Aradi, as he retires after 9 years of leading the force and a 37-year law enforcement career.

Chief Aradi has been a strong and compassionate leader who has earned the respect of the people he serves, the city's leaders under whom he works, and most importantly the men and women he leads on the Largo police force. Integrity and ethics are the words most often mentioned when people speak of Chief Aradi.

He has had a clear impact on making Largo's streets safer. Part of the reason is that he did not lead from behind a desk. He was always out in the field.

It was my privilege to work with Chief Aradi on a number of initiatives during his tenure. These include introducing new technologies into the police force to help make sure his officers had the latest equipment to do their jobs more safely and effectively. We also teamed up with the community on a project he spearheaded to create a local Silver Alert program to put out notices when senior citizens were reported lost or missing. Chief Aradi took the program state-wide and it is now a model national program.

Chief Aradi also had a special place in his heart for the families of his officers. My wife Beverly and the Chief worked together on a number of heartrending situations involving families who faced difficult times related to illness, injury, and even the death of an officer with a young family.

St. Petersburg Times reporter Lorri Helfand recently featured the life and career of Chief Aradi. Following my remarks, I would like to include her story for the benefit of my colleagues. Also, I will include an editorial from the same publication which speaks for the community in saying that Chief Aradi "will be remembered and will be missed."

Madam Speaker, serving in law enforcement is a thankless job. The officers put their lives on the line every day to protect our homes, our schools and our communities. As their leader, serving 24 hours a day 7 days a week, Chief Aradi has been the consummate professional—leading his force by example.

The people of Largo will miss Chief Aradi and we all wish him and his wife Diane the best in their well-deserved retirement years. Thank you Chief for a job well done.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, May 23, 2010]

THANKS, CHIEF ARADI, FOR YOUR SERVICE TO  
LARGO.

Lester Aradi left a good job in Illinois almost 10 years ago to come to Pinellas County because he had read a book, *Who Moved My Cheese?* and learned that change is good. Now, he's ready for another change. On June 1, Aradi will retire from his job as Largo's chief of police, and while the change may be good for Aradi, it will be a real loss for Largo.

Aradi, who lives in Clearwater, took over a police department that had been scarred by scandal and disrupted by having three chiefs in seven years. It desperately needed a steady hand at the helm. He brought discipline, direction and a closer bond between the department and the community.

Aradi was not Largo's first choice to replace retiring chief Jerry Bloechle in 2000. City officials initially preferred Vail, Colo., police Chief Greg Morrison, but after a visit to Vail, then-City Manager Steve Stanton cooled on Morrison and instead chose Aradi, the deputy chief in Buffalo Grove, Ill.

Aradi had risen through the ranks of the Buffalo Grove department for 25 years and was being groomed to take over as chief there—until he read that book about cheese. Aradi was familiar with the Tampa Bay area, having vacationed here often and even purchased a house in Clearwater. In the Largo job, he saw a challenge—a police department with a young, well-educated rank and file, but problems with leadership, discipline and profile in the community.

It was a risk for Aradi. He had never even lived outside of Illinois. He had never been



chief of a police department. And the Largo department he wanted to lead had seen one chief forced out because he interfered in a criminal investigation of his 15-year-old son, and another chief retired after a scandal involving sexual activity between Largo police officers and girls in the department's Explorers post.

But Aradi took the risk. Almost 10 years later, the department and city are better for his having been here.

Whatever people needed from Aradi, he seemed able to deliver it. While his officers were careful to toe the line, they also knew their chief as a man concerned about them, their career advancement and their families. To the community, he was warm, approachable, respectful and always looking for ways to connect with them, whether it was through his Coffee with the Chief series, his community walks or his visits to their neighborhood meetings. Local nonprofits knew him as a compassionate person who helped others, especially children and the elderly.

His bosses in City Hall were grateful because he ran a good department and kept it free of scandal. Other chiefs in Pinellas County admired Aradi for his eagerness to try new techniques and his high ethical standards.

Aradi admits to being tired and ready to retire to some place serene, perhaps to a plot of land in the mountains where he can ride horses and spend long, leisurely hours with his family. It is no surprise that in making his decision to leave his job, he also was thinking of the man he trained to be ready to take over, Deputy Chief John Carroll. Staying longer would be selfish, Aradi said, and would deny Carroll an opportunity he deserves.

So Aradi is making a change, again. But in Largo, he will be remembered and he will be missed.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, May 2, 2010]

DEPARTING LARGO POLICE CHIEF LESTER  
ARADI LEAVES LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

(By Lorri Helfand)

After 36 years in law enforcement, police Chief Lester Aradi is ready to move on.

Aradi, 58, wants to give his second-in-command, John Carroll, a chance to lead. And he wants to spend more time with his wife, Diane, and family.

If Aradi stuck around, it would be for selfish reasons, he said.

"It would deny (Carroll) an opportunity to become police chief and deny someone else an opportunity to be deputy chief," said Aradi, who announced Wednesday he will leave at the end of May.

City Manager Mac Craig, who has lived in the community since 1983, said he's never seen another police chief contribute so much.

He praised Aradi for having coffee sit-downs with residents, for having a major hand in the state's Silver Alert program and for working with numerous nonprofits.

"And he did all that while running a great department," Craig said.

Aradi's law enforcement career began during the Nixon administration. He came to Largo in 2001, after 25 years in the Buffalo Grove Police Department in Illinois, where he worked his way up to deputy chief.

As Largo's chief, he earned a reputation as a warm-hearted, approachable leader.

Joseph Stefko, who lives and works in downtown Largo, said the chief attended Old Northwest neighborhood meetings and was always willing to listen to his concerns.

"You can go right up to him and talk to him," Stefko said.

He credits the chief with helping clean up his neighborhood.

"He definitely changed the crime rate," Stefko said. "When I lived here 15 years ago it was pretty bad."

But Aradi said his accessibility, coupled with his responsibilities, came with some drawbacks.

"No matter where I am, the BlackBerry is constantly going off day and night," Aradi said.

Messages range from residents telling him that their cars were stolen to announcements about the community garden getting manure.

Other law enforcement leaders say they've enjoyed working with Aradi and consider him a friend.

"It's clear Lester is a man of integrity and maintains high ethical standards," said Pinellas County Sheriff Jim Coats. "That is reflected in the staff that works underneath him."

"Lester's always been on the cutting edge," said recently retired Clearwater police Chief Sid Klein. "He's not afraid to take chances. He's just a real top-notch professional."

When Aradi came to the department, its image had been tarnished by a sexual misconduct scandal involving officers. There were tensions between the former city manager and the officers.

"I think he brought the community and the Police Department closer together by being visible himself, by being conscious of the officers, and by being respectful and doing good customer service," Mayor Pat Gerard said.

Last year, Craig ran into friction with the chief over Aradi's choice to suspend, rather than fire, an officer who fixed a ticket. Some have speculated that Craig's decision to suspend Aradi led to his departure.

"I'm not surprised because of the incident a year ago where he was publicly reprimanded by the manager," said former Mayor Bob Jackson.

But Aradi adamantly denies that.

"That's water so far under the bridge it's out there in the Caribbean Sea," Aradi said.

There were no major controversies in the department during Aradi's tenure. But that's not to say that Aradi avoided controversial issues.

Three years ago, he received flak for his support of former City Manager Steve Stanton's personal choice to become a woman. Some called for an investigation of Aradi and all officials who knew of Stanton's choice but didn't make that information public.

He tackled the issue head-on, choosing to talk about it at a local Rotary meeting.

He also took strong positions, defending his officers even when his opinions clashed with city administrators.

Last year, during budget talks, he told Craig and other city leaders he couldn't agree to furloughs, which would remove more officers from the streets.

Aradi's influence also extended beyond the community.

Last year, Aradi was recognized by the Area Agency on Aging for his efforts that helped create the statewide Silver Alert program.

Aradi says he's done with law enforcement and is not sure what he'll do down the road.

"I want to go fly-fishing again," Aradi said. "I want to ride my horse."

He's ready to live on 10 acres of land in the Blue Ridge Mountains, visit his children and new grandson, and take a permanent vacation from his BlackBerry.

About a year ago, Aradi and his wife adopted a former racehorse, Haggis Hanover, who had been neglected. They hope to adopt one or two more and move to Tennessee, Georgia or North Carolina, where one of his daughters lives.

"We've made good friends here," Aradi said. "I'm going to miss the people of this community."

But he'll be fine not being chief, anymore. "I don't need the title," Aradi said. "My family is much more important."

HONORING SUSIE SNEDDEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Susie Snedden upon being named as a 2010 Common Threads honoree. Mrs. Snedden will be honored by California State University, Fresno at the 2010 Common Threads Award luncheon to be held on Friday, April 16, 2010.

Mrs. Susie Snedden grew up on the family farm in Maricopa, California. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelors Degree in political science. While in school, she interned for then-Congressman William Ketchum in his Washington, DC, office, the Republican State Central Committee and was the first intern for the California Cattleman's Association in Sacramento. As a young adult she returned to the family cow-calf operation that she now co-owns with her husband, Richard.

Mrs. Snedden is very active in the Kern County community. She has served as president and director for the Kern County CattleWomen and as a state director for the Kern County Cattlemen's Association. She and her husband served as state membership co-chairs for R-CALF, USA, a national cattle producer's organization. Mrs. Snedden operates an educational booth at, and assists with, the annual Farm Day in the City, has been involved at Maricopa School on the School Site Council and School Bond Committee. She often gives presentations about beef, its by-products and the cattle ranching business to classrooms and organizations.

Mr. and Mrs. Snedden have hosted visitors from around the world, providing them with a taste of ranch life. Mrs. Snedden is active member of her church, where she has led mission trips to Mexico, and has opened her home to Vacation Bible Schools and women's retreats. For her efforts, Mrs. Snedden was named "Kern County Cattle Princess" in 1972 and "Kern County CattleWoman of the Year" in 2001.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Susie Snedden upon her achievements. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Snedden many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM AND  
MARTHA MANNING

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to William and Martha Manning, two individuals who have been major advocates for education in my home State of Delaware.



Bill was born and raised in Wilmington and is currently the co-managing partner of the Wilmington office of Saul Ewing LLP. He and his wife, Martha, herself a former public school teacher, are known in Delaware for their passionate support of education. In 1988, Bill was elected to the Red Clay School District board, where, serving as board president for 13 years, he led the effort for supporting school choice options. Bill currently serves on the boards of the Delaware Charter Schools Network and the MOT Charter School.

Martha Manning was instrumental in the founding of the Cab Calloway School of the Arts, a choice school located in Delaware's Red Clay School District. She served on its Advisory Board for 11 years, and, as a founder of the Delaware Charter Schools Network, Martha has been vital in the efforts to advocate for and expand the reach of charter schools in our State. She served as the Network's first Executive Director, and currently serves on local foundation and non-profit boards, all of which are related to education.

This year, Bill and Martha are being honored by the Delaware Charter Schools Network with the 2010 Catalyst in Education Award, given to individuals who have proven to be true agents for change in our public education community. Charter schools play a critical and significant role in the public education community of Delaware, and I applaud and support the Network's choice to honor Bill and Martha; this award is a testament to their ceaseless dedication and longtime commitment in championing improvements in education in our State.

It is because of the efforts and strong advocacy of individuals like Bill and Martha Manning that our schools are able to grow and our children are able to flourish. I am proud not only to call them two of Delaware's most active education advocates but to also call them my friends, and I am happy to have the opportunity to recognize and honor them today for their tireless efforts and immeasurable contributions.

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HONORING JUSTICE STEVEN  
VARTABEDIAN

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Justice Steven Vartabedian upon his retirement from the California Fifth District Court of Appeal. After serving for twenty-nine years as a judge, Justice Vartabedian will officially retire on May 31, 2010.

Justice Steven Vartabedian is a native of the San Joaquin Valley. He attended, and graduated with honors, from California State University, Fresno in 1972. Upon graduation he studied at Santa Clara University, School of Law, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1975. He passed both the state and federal bar in 1975. Early in his career, Justice Vartabedian returned to the Valley to practice family law and real estate litigation with, now former State Senator, and current justice on the Fifth District Court, Charles Poochigian.

Justice Vartabedian began serving on the Sanger Justice Court in 1981 and moved to

the Fresno Municipal Court in 1983, where he served for four years, two of which he was a presiding judge. He joined the Fresno County Superior Court in 1987, serving as presiding criminal judge. In September 1989, Justice Vartabedian was appointed as an associate justice of the Court of Appeal by Governor George Deukmejian. While serving on the state judiciary, he participated on the planning committee of the Appellate Justice Institute and on a committee studying weighted case-loads. Justice Vartabedian's most recent participation was with the Appellate Court Legacy Project Committee. He has authored articles on the topics of sentencing, court delays and sex abuse cases, all of which have been published in the Pacific Law Journal and the Judges' Journal.

While busy with his practice and serving with the various courts, Justice Vartabedian found time to teach. He taught business law at California State University, Fresno from 1976 to 1981. In 1992 he was a symposium speaker and panelist at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, for the "Victims Rights in California" program. In 1995, Justice Vartabedian moderated a state bar program entitled "To Appeal or Not to Appeal," and has lectured on the subject of the appellate process to county bar associations and community groups on numerous occasions.

Justice Vartabedian and his wife, Marilyn, have three adult daughters, all engaged in careers in law. The family is active in symphonic activities, as his daughters are all musicians. He has served in the community as a past founding member of the local board of directors of World Impact, an organization that focuses on inner-city youth ministry. He is a former trustee of the Armenian Community School of Fresno and is an elder and bass soloist in his church. For his service, Justice Vartabedian received Sanger Unified School District's Outstanding Contribution to Education Award in 1982 and the Armenian Community School Outstanding Service Award in 2004.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Justice Steven Vartabedian upon his retirement from the Fifth District Court of Appeal. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Justice Vartabedian many years of continued success.

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REMARKS ON CHIPS BARRY

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, Hamlet "Chips" Barry, the nearly 20-year head of Denver Water, was a dynamic man and a true visionary for Denver and the West. Throughout his tenure at Denver Water, he not only transformed the agency but taught legions of legislators, myself included, the elements of water law and its fundamental importance to Denver and the West.

Chips grew up in the Montclair section of east Denver and attended Denver Public Schools. In 1966, he graduated cum laude from Yale College, where he majored in American Studies and was a member of the tennis team. In 1969, he earned a law degree from Columbia University Law School.

After law school, Chips worked as a VISTA volunteer lawyer in rural Alaska, served as a law clerk to Judge Robert McWilliams on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, and was a legal services lawyer in Micronesia.

Upon his return to Colorado, he became heavily involved in civic activities, including work on the first statewide water plan under Governor Dick Lamm and serving as a member of the Board of Governors for the Colorado Bar Association. He then served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources for Governor Roy Romer from 1987 to 1990, after which he was named manager of Denver Water in January 1991.

At Denver Water, Chips' open-door policy made him accessible to employees throughout the organization. He was well respected for his willingness to negotiate and his ability to avoid conflict. Through his personal efforts, Denver Water also improved relationships with many entities on Colorado's Western Slope.

During his tenure at Denver Water, the utility implemented a conservation program that is nationally and internationally recognized as a model of success. He built a recycled water distribution system, invested millions of dollars in treatment facility improvements, monitored recovery from several devastating wildfires in Denver Water's watershed, and was the leader in the recovery work from one of the worst droughts in the city's history. His "Use Only What You Need" campaign has helped Denver residents cut their use of water by 33 percent, easily below the national average.

Chips was the creator and founder of the Western Urban Water Coalition, which represents all the major water utilities in the semi-arid West and has become a respected voice in Washington on such issues as endangered species and federal regulation of water. In 2009, he won the President's Award from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies for his leadership on local and national levels regarding the drinking water industry.

Chips owned a macadamia nut farm in Hawaii and planned to retire and work his farm. He enjoyed tennis, squash, skiing, and golf. He collected old Saabs, foreign paper money, and books about Micronesia and Alaska. Chips was famous for his boundless sense of humor and never-ending joke supply, and his bushy moustache. He occasionally dressed as Teddy Roosevelt to entertain friends. His immense personality and remarkable vision for Western water will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.

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CONGRATULATING JEREMY R.  
STEVENS

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeremy Stevens of Sidney, Nebraska on becoming a member of USA TODAY's All-USA Community College Academic Team.

The All-USA Academic Team honors a prestigious group of 20 community college students from across the nation for outstanding intellectual achievement and leadership.

Jeremy, an Army Veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division, attended Western Nebraska

Community College, WNCC, in Sydney prior to transferring to Creighton University. At WNCC, Jeremy earned a spot on the president's list, the Dean's List, and was an active member of the TRIO Upward Bound Program. His military honors include the Combat Infantryman's Award, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Award.

Jeremy was the President of his hometown's PTK Alpha Rho Omicron Chapter and served on the Sidney Endowment Association Board where he was an integral part of extending benefits to his fellow veterans. Jeremy also deserves recognition for the scholarship program he implemented for veterans who joined the military after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Jeremy's dedication to public service is evident as he prepares for a career as a history teacher, where he hopes to translate his ability for helping others to a classroom setting.

Once again, I congratulate Jeremy on his tremendous achievement and I wish him luck in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING NISEI DIPLOMA PROJECT

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of the 2010 Honorary Bachelor of Humane Letters degree recipients through the Nisei Diploma Project. All honorees will be recognized on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at a special awards ceremony to be held at California State University, Fresno.

During World War II, an estimated two hundred and fifty Japanese-American and Japanese immigrant students from California State University, CSU, campuses across the state had their education abruptly interrupted when Executive Order 9066 was executed in 1942. These students were forcefully removed from the west coast and incarcerated for the duration of the war. Once released many of these former students went to work and did not return to school.

On September 23, 2009 the California State University Board of Trustees unanimously voted to award Special Honorary Bachelor of Humane Letters degrees to the CSU students that were affected by the Executive Order, known as the Nisei Diploma Project. Through the passage of this project, CSU strives to heal the wounds of the Japanese-Americans living in California during World War II. By identifying the former students enrolled in the CSU system when the order was initially passed, they will honor the academic intentions of the Japanese-American students enrolled at the time by presenting an honorary degree to the former students or their families and welcoming the former students back to the campus.

California State University, Fresno has determined that there are eighty-seven eligible students through the Nisei Diploma Project. Today, they are honoring all eighty-seven students and presenting a Special Honorary Bachelor of Humane Letters degree to nineteen of those students.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the 2010 Honorary Bachelor

of Humane Letters degree recipients through the Nisei Diploma Project. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of the honorees.

#### RECOGNIZING BYRON BJORKLUND AND SHORT STOP CUSTOM CATERING OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA AS THE U.S. SBA MINNESOTA SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

#### HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Small Business Administration Minnesota Business of the Year, Short Stop Custom Catering, owned by Byron Bjorklund of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Bjorklund was inspired by a college class assignment to write a paper on running a business. From that paper, Bjorklund opened Short Stop restaurant in east St. Cloud and three years later, a second location in west St. Cloud.

Bjorklund was only a senior in college when he opened his first business, and a growing business coupled with a growing family had Bjorklund looking for options that would keep him in an industry and business he loved, while also allowing him to enjoy his family life. Opening up Short Stop Custom Catering in 1995 provided him with the freedom and security that so many entrepreneurs and business owners appreciate.

But, Bjorklund's story does not end there. Bjorklund opened his restaurant as a training facility for students with special needs. Bjorklund was particularly touched by one student with Down syndrome who returned to work at the place he loved so much even after graduating high school. Later, Bjorklund and his wife would discover their fifth child had Down syndrome and the circumstances ignited a passion for working with the Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota. Since 1999, Short Stop Custom Catering has catered the annual Buddy Walk while Bjorklund recruited donations to make the event free to the participants; over 5,000 people last year alone.

Today, Short Stop Custom Catering is a staple in the St. Cloud community, serving as an exclusive caterer to many local businesses for events and daily meals. Small businesses are the backbone and lifeblood of our neighborhoods and business owners like Byron Bjorklund remind us all of the difference one individual can make in a community.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Byron Bjorklund not just for the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit he displays, but also to ask that this body also recognize his commendable service to the St. Cloud community and the Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota.

#### HONORING HAROLD MCINTYRE

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harold McIntyre. Mr. McIntyre

passed away on December 4, 2009 and will be honored at the 2010 Valley Area Agency on Aging Senior Power Day for his work with the veterans of Genesee County. Senior Power Day will be held tomorrow at Crossroads Village in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Harold McIntyre worked as a Surgical Assistant at Flint General Hospital and in the Public Relations Department of The Flint Journal prior to his retirement. He served on the Westwood Heights District Board of Education and was the past commander of the Leo P. Crow VFW Post. A veteran of the Vietnam War he formed the McFarlan Park Veterans Committee to ensure the names of service personnel killed during their service were added to the monument. He was committed to renovating McFarlan Park as a veterans' memorial. Harold was instrumental in organizing the Downtown Small Business Association's Annual Memorial Day veterans march. In 2009 he planned the first Veterans March for the Valley Area Agency on Aging Senior Power Day. The theme was "A Tribute to World War II Veterans."

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory to Harold McIntyre. His work on behalf of veterans reminds us of the great debt we owe to those that sacrificed so much so we could have freedom and I commend Valley Area Agency on Aging for keeping his memory and work alive.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, and Wednesday, May 19, 2010, I was not present for 11 recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: Roll No. 273—"nay"; roll No. 274—"yea"; roll No. 275—"yea"; roll No. 276—"yea"; roll No. 277—"nay"; roll No. 278—"yea"; roll No. 279—"yea"; roll No. 280—"yea"; roll No. 281—"yea"; roll No. 282—"yea"; roll No. 283—"yea."

#### HONORING VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA, FRESNO

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, my colleague from California, Mr. COSTA, and I rise today to commend and congratulate the Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation upon the groundbreaking ceremony of the Veterans Home of California in Fresno. The ceremony is to be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at the future site of the home and is a true testament of the hard work and dedication of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Central California Veterans Home Support Foundation.

Having a home dedicated to serving the needs of the veterans in the San Joaquin Valley has been a long time goal of the Central

California Veterans Home Foundation, CCVHF. This goal became achievable when the Millennial Healthcare Act of 2000 through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, USDVA, was placed into effect, changing the way projects were evaluated for State Home Grant funding. Under the new rules, new Veterans Homes receiving grant funds would have to be located near veteran population centers; California has been listed by the USDVA as one of two states in "great need" for additional Veterans Homes, and Fresno is a region with a large veteran population and healthcare hub.

In response to the federal recognition, the state legislature and then California Governor Gray Davis, responded by passing the Veterans Home Bond Act of 2000 and Assembly Bill 1077 of 2004. This state legislation made funds available to develop and construct new

Veterans Homes in Lancaster, Ventura, West Los Angeles, Fresno and Redding, and met the matching requirements of the federal funding.

CCVHF was formed and conversations were held with the California Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as local elected officials, to insure the Fresno project would happen. In 2003, funding was cut short due to budget issues within the state. The board members of the foundation took many trips to Sacramento to fight for the funding they were initially promised. After a six-year struggle, the state and federal government signed off on construction of the new Veterans Home in southwest Fresno. The twenty-seven acre site in West Fresno will be the site of a three-hundred bed facility for veterans, offering complete medical and dental care amidst the amenities of a small town atmosphere. CCVHF envisions a home

where residents can participate in on and off campus activities, civic affairs and attend veteran service organization meetings. Residents will also have the option of participating in the Therapeutic Employment Program, visiting the on-site libraries, or attending events such as dances, social gatherings, special programs, arts and crafts, as well as staying active while gardening or swimming. The goal of the facility and CCVHF is to enable residents to achieve their highest quality of life in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

Madam Speaker, Mr. COSTA and I rise today to commend and congratulate all of the organizations and individuals that have made the groundbreaking of the Veterans Home of California in Fresno possible. I invite my colleagues to join us in wishing the home and future residents great success.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 26

9:30 a.m.

## Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Elisabeth Ann Hagen, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Food Safety, and Catherine E. Woteki, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, both of the Department of Agriculture, and Sara Louise Faivre-Davis, of Texas, Lowell Lee Junkins, of Iowa, and Myles J. Watts, of Montana, all to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Farm Credit Administration.

SR-328A

## Armed Services

## SeaPower Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2011.

SR-222

10 a.m.

## Judiciary

## Constitution Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the legality and efficacy of line-item veto proposals.

SD-226

## Finance

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider the nomination of Sherry Glied, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SD-215

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2781, to change references in Federal law to mental retardation to references to an intellectual disability, and to change references to a mentally retarded individual to references to an individual with an intellectual disability, and the nominations of David K. Mineta, of California, to be Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Adam Gamoran, of Wisconsin, Deborah Loewenberg Ball, of Michigan, Margaret R. McLeod, of the District of Columbia, and Bridget Terry Long, of Massachusetts, all to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences.

SD-430

## Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Tracie Stevens, of Washington, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

SD-628

## Appropriations

## Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine firefighting policy with the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior.

SD-124

## Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine how to minimize the impact of the great recession on young workers.

210, Cannon Building

2 p.m.

## Aging

To hold hearings to examine dietary supplements, focusing on what seniors need to know.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

## Foreign Relations

## African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing challenges and opportunities for peace in Sudan.

SD-419

## Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2011.

SR-222

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation Communications and Technology Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine innovation and inclusion, focusing on the Americans with Disabilities Act at 20.

SR-253

MAY 27

Time to be announced

## Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To resume hearings to examine the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on small businesses.

SR-428A

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2011.

SR-222

10 a.m.

## Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the financial state of the airline industry and the implications of consolidation.

SR-253

## Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine an original bill entitled, "Water Resources Development Act of 2010", focusing on legislative issues.

SD-406

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine building a secure future for multiemployer pension plans.

SD-430

## Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 193, to create and extend certain temporary district court judgeships, H.R. 4506, to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges, H.R. 1933, to direct the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A Child Is Missing Alert and Recovery Center to assist law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children, H.R. 908, to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, S. 258, to amend the Controlled Substances Act

to provide enhanced penalties for marketing controlled substances to minors, and the nominations of Robert Neil Chatigny, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Scott M. Matheson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, John A. Gibney, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, John J. McConnell, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, James Kelleher Bredar, and Ellen Lipton Hollander, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Susan Richard Nelson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, and Stephanie A. Finley, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, Laura E. Duffy, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, Scott Jerome Parker, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Darryl Keith McPherson, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois, and Gervin Kazumi Miyamoto, to be United States Marshal for the District of Hawaii, all of the Department of Justice, and Daniel J. Becker, of Utah, James R. Hannah, of Arkansas, Gayle A. Nachtigal, of Oregon, John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, Marsha J. Rabiteau, of Connecticut, and Hern n D. Vera, of California, all to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

## Judiciary

## Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the United/Continental Airlines merger, focusing on how consumers will fare.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

## Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MAY 28

9:30 a.m.

## Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2011.

SR-222

JUNE 8

10 a.m.

## Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

## Children and Families Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the state of American children.

SD-430

JUNE 10

10 a.m.

## Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

## State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine assessing the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on states, localities and the private sector.

SD-342

JUNE 16

9:30 a.m.

## Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' claims processing, focusing on if current efforts are working.

SR-418